# **BLOUNT COUNTY COMMISSION**

220 SECOND AVENUE EAST, SUITE 106 ONEONTA, AL 35121



September 8, 2022

Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs Attn.: LaToya Edwards, Recreation and Conservation Programs Specialist P.O. Box 5690 Montgomery, AL 36103-5690

Re:

**Blount County Commission** 

Recreational Trails Program Application

Ms. Edwards:

On behalf of the Blount County Commission, I am pleased to submit the enclosed application for funding consideration under the 2023 Recreational Trails Program Funding Cycle. The project proposed in this application is requesting funding assistance to build a multi-use trail near an existing recreational area which will significantly enhance recreational opportunities in Blount County.

If you need more information, please contact me at 205-625-4160. Your consideration of this request is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Chairman

# **APPLICATION CHECKLIST**

Please use this checklist to ensure all required application documents are included prior to submitting to ADECA. **Incomplete applications will not be processed.** 

Application Cover Sheet Resolution adopted by the legal entity of the applicant authorizing the submission of the application and committing all matching funds required to complete the proposed project	X X X
Application Cover Sheet  Resolution adopted by the legal entity of the applicant authorizing the submission of the application and committing all matching funds required to complete the proposed project	Χ
the application and committing all matching funds required to complete the proposed project	Χ
project	
A narrative description of the proposed project and responses to each of the	
	Χ
application rating criterion	
Project Cost Estimate	Χ
Detailed Project Budget with Descriptive Narrative	Χ
Schedule of project activities necessary for project completion to include measurable	Χ
milestones (18-month period beginning July 2021)	
Preliminary Site Plan	Χ
Location/Vicinity Map	Χ
Property Boundary Area Map	Χ
	Χ
Environmental Assessment:	
Concurrence from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	Χ
	Χ
Concurrence from the Alabama Historical Commission	Χ
Approval to cross a public highway or a public utility right-of-way (if	NA
applicable)	
Water obstruction & encroachment permit (if applicable)	NA
Hazardous materials survey if real property is to be acquired with grant funds	NA
Environmental Assessment (if applicable; format can be found at	Χ
http://www.adeca.alabama.gov/Divisions/ced/Recreation/Pages/Programs.aspx)	
Copy of deed to property, plat, and/or legal description of the property proposed for	Χ
purchase and/or development	
NOTE: If real property is to be acquired with grant funds, the acquisition must comply	
with the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of	
170 (The Uniform Act). Implementation regulations for The Uniform Act are found in	
49 CFR Part 24. You may not acquire property until after the grant agreement	
has been executed and consultation with ADECA staff has occurred.	
	NA
applicant and landowner are not the same. A recorded easement allowing trail	
construction will be required from the landowner before construction begins.)	
	X
	Χ
participation	

You must include a copy of this completed checklist with your application. Please see the following website for electronic versions of the forms:

http://www.adeca.alabama.gov/Divisions/ced/Recreation/Pages/Programs.aspx.

# **Application Cover Sheet**

Applicant's Name (Organization):	Blount County Commission		
Address:	220 Second Ave East, Room 106		
	Oneonta, AL ZIP+4: 35121		
County:	Blount		
FEI Number:	63-6001422		
DUNS Number:	175315274		
Unique Entity Identifier (UEI):	U6Q1E7NJYQE4		
Project Title:	Swann Covered Bridge Trail		
Project Description:	Construction of a multi-use recreational trail which will		
	lead to the historic Swann Covered Bridge.		
Park Name, if applicable: Park (project location) Address:	NA NA		
	ZIP+4:		
Latitude and Longitude (deg/min/sec):	33.994928, -86.595831		
Congressional District			
(for project location):	4		
(for project location): State Senate District (for project location):	11, 30, & 34		
(for project location): State Senate District	11, 30, & 34		
(for project location): State Senate District (for project location): State House District (for project location): Applicant Contact Person and	11, 30, & 34		
(for project location): State Senate District (for project location): State House District (for project location): Applicant Contact Person and Title:	11, 30, & 34 9, 10, 12, & 17		
(for project location): State Senate District (for project location): State House District (for project location): Applicant Contact Person and Title: Phone Number:	11, 30, & 34 9, 10, 12, & 17 Chris Green, Chairman		
(for project location): State Senate District (for project location): State House District (for project location): Applicant Contact Person and Title: Phone Number:	11, 30, & 34  9, 10, 12, & 17  Chris Green, Chairman  205-625-4160		
(for project location): State Senate District (for project location): State House District (for project location):  Applicant Contact Person and Title:  Phone Number: Email Address:  Grant Administrator or Other	11, 30, & 34  9, 10, 12, & 17  Chris Green, Chairman  205-625-4160  chgreen@co.blount.al.us		

Total Project Cost: \$450,000.00 Fund	ls Requested: <u>\$360,000.00</u>
•	by trail type is <b>\$200,000.00</b> for non-motorized, corized, diverse-use trails; <b>\$500,000.00</b> for cojects.
• •	ed in the application is true and correct; the the applicant understands that incorrect or ion to be rejected.
(Chief Elected Official's Signature)	Chairman (Title)
	September 8, 2022 (Date)

# BLOUNT COUNTY COMMISSION

220 SECOND AVENUE EAST, SUITE 106 ONEONTA, AL 35121



#### **RESOLUTION #2022-09-01**

WHEREAS, the Blount County Commission intends to apply to the State of Alabama for Recreational Trails Program Funds to build a multi-purpose trail; and

WHEREAS, said programs are limited to funding a maximum of eighty percent (80%) of the proposed project cost up to a maximum grant amount of \$400,000 for a multi-use trail.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, that the Blount County Commission is applying for \$360,000.00 of RTP grant funds and will commit local matching funds of \$90,000.00 for the proposed Recreational Trails Fund Project, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that in the event the grant is awarded, the County understands that it will sign assurances complying with all applicable Federal and State laws, rules, and regulations.

**ADOPTED AND APPROVED** by the Blount County Commission on this the 8<sup>th</sup> day of September 2022.

ATTEST:

**County Administrator** 

OF OPPO

FAX: (205) 625-5961

# **Project Descriptive Narrative**

Provide a brief, yet informative, description of the proposed project and address each evaluation criterion on the following pages (provide additional information and documentation as may be needed to support your response to each evaluation criterion).

# **Project Information**

Name of Project: Swann Covered Bridg	e Trail
Trail Length in Linear Feet (L.F.): 2,800	Trail Width: <u>8 feet up to 15 feet</u>
Trail Surface Type: Concrete, Asphalt, an	d Wood
Application Type:  Non-motorized for Non-motorized for	
Type of Applicant: City/Town State	
Grant Amount Requested \$\frac{360,0}{200,0}\$	000.00 000.00 000.00 000.00 0.00
approximately 1,500 LF from a new trai roadway that is now closed to vehicle tra	ncrete trail and a 10' wooden pedestrian bridge thead site where it will connect with an ashalted affic. The recreational trail will continue along this leads to the historic Swann Covered Bridge that

crosses the Locust Fork River.

## Please address all evaluation criteria (100 Total Available Points).

# 1. Describe the degree to which the project's scope and feasibility meet the project area's recreational needs.

The Blount County Commission is seeking grant assistance to expand trail facilities near one of the County's favorite recreational sites, Swann Covered Bridge. The Bridge, which is 1 of 3 in Blount County, was built in 1933 and is a popular destination as the area includes nature trail hiking, site seeing, swimming, kayaking, and fishing.

Swann Covered Bridge, which crosses beautiful Locust Fork of the Black Warrior River, is listed on the National Historic Register. Due to weight limit concerns, the Covered Bridge was closed to vehicle traffic in early 2022 and is now strictly available for recreational purposes.

Through the development of this project, the County has had the opportunity to buy a 1 acre tract of land on Swann Bridge Road for \$10,000 for the purposes of building a trailhead parking lot site. The owners willingness to sell this property to the County for this price is giving Blount County an opportunity to protect the area and one of their very important historic and outdoor recreation sites.

The future parking area site is approximately ½ mile east of Swann Covered Bridge and Blount County is seeking a grant to build a multipurpose trail from the new parking lot to the Covered Bridge. As noted in the budget narrative, the County is planning to close a section of Swann Bridge Road on the east side of the Covered Bridge for the purposes of this new recreational trail.

# 2. Describe the ways in which the project provides for the greatest number of compatible recreational purposes.

As mentioned above, the proposed multi-purpose trail project will provide connectivity to multiple outdoor recreational activities associated with the historic Covered Bridge and the Locust Fork of the Black Warrior River.

On the west side of Swann Covered Bridge there is a drop in point for kayakers and canoes. Vehicles have access in this area from Swann Bridge Road which deadends on this west side of the Covered Bridge. Below the Bridge there are areas along the river bank for fishing or passive recreation such as site seeing as well as nature trails for hiking.

The proposed multipurpose trail will be a nice complement to the natural and scenic resources of this beautiful area of Blount County as noted in the numerous attached letters from the residents.

# 3. Describe the ways in which the project provides a new, unique, or more effective means for making trail opportunities available to the public.

This project is certainly unique in that it will incorporate an existing roadway and a historic covered bridge into use as a new multi-use recreational trail. By closing a section of Swann Bridge road and being able to use the roadway surface for the new trail, Blount County is cutting the cost of the proposed improvements significantly.

Furthermore,, the Swann Covered Bridge is such a popular site in Blount County that the addition of the new trail through this project is a very exciting prospect for the public.

# 4. Describe the ways in which the project facilitates the access and use of trails by persons with disabilities, older adults, economically disadvantaged, and other special populations or groups.

The new trail will be ADA compliant which will provide recreational opportunities for the elderly and/or the disabled. The scope of this project is to construct handicapped spots in the parking lot and the new trail will be ADA compliant throughout.

There are no charges for any of the existing facilities, nor will there be any for the new improvements, therefore, those individuals or families with economic disadvantages can have a valuable recreation opportunity available to them. Many of the persons that currently use the river resources in this area are poorer persons, so the addition of the trail along with the existing river and cover bridge resources will add to the recreation options for which they are already partaking.

This area is just outside of the Town of Cleveland which has a low and moderate income (LMI) population of 45% according the Housing and Urban Development statistical data. Cleveland has a total population of 1,245 persons. Likewise, the nearby Town of Blountsville to the north which has a total population of over 1,800 is 68% LMI. There are also several predominantly low income census in the direct vicinity so this project will clearly provide recreational opportunities for the economically disadvantaged.

# 5. Describe the ways in which the project creates opportunities for new partnerships between trail users, private interest groups, and public agencies within the project area.

The Friends of the Locust Fork River (FLFR) is a local organization that was formed in 1991 with the purpose of helping to preserve the natural beauty of the river and its surrounding resouces and have been a major driver of this trail enhancement project in Blount County. As noted in their attached letter, "FLFR protects the river by educating youth, getting people on the river through guided monthly outings, watch dogging polluters, and working with other local & statewide partner organizations to advocate smart water policy and better protection of rivers statewide". FLFR has invested time and resources in Swann Covered Bridge for many years. They organize hikes and kayak trips regularly and their volunteers have been cleaning up the area once a month since 2014.

Additionally, there have already been discussions that the Town of Cleveland, which has their primary city park facilities approximately 1.5 miles from the proposed site of the start of the proposed trail, will have the opportunity to expand their sidewalks to the new site. That type of project seems that it would be a prime candidate for ALDOT TAP funding which would be very doable for the Town of Cleveland.

6. Describe the ways in which the project uses the grant funds to leverage other public or private investments (in the form of services and materials as well as dollars).

FLFR has invested time and resources in Swann Covered Bridge for many years. They organize hikes and kayak trips regularly and their volunteers have been cleaning up the area once a month since 2014.

As mentioned previously, Blount County has invested funds to purchase the property for the new trailhead parking lot for the purpose of building this new multi-use trail.

Additionally, the new staff position detailed below is a positive investment towards the success of this project and the protection of these federal funds.

7. Describe the degree of commitment to continue operation and maintenance of the project. Include an operation and maintenance plan detailing the amount of money needed to operate and maintain the trail/facility after project completion and identify who will be responsible for these activities.

The Blount County commission has committed to hiring one additional employee which will manage their park and recreation facilities including this proposed trail and the three covered bridges throughout the county as well as the King's Bend Scenic Overlook Park on US Hwy 231 which was recently built with the assistance of ALDOT Transportation Alternatives Program funds. The County has included this full-time position in their 2023 budget which will be approved this month, September 2022. The position will have an annual salary and benefits starting at approximately \$40,000. The County is making this commitment to these valuable resources to make sure the facilities are clean, safe, and attractive. The person's responsibilities will be general oversight each day, keeping them clean and neat monitoring video surveillance equipment, cutting grass, and general upkeep. The regular monitoring throughout these sites on a daily basis will be a deterrent to vagrancy, vandalism etc. Visitors will have the assurance that the sites are clean and safe which will increase traffic to the facilities.

The concrete trail itself will require very little maintenance other than mowing and edging. The County is choosing a permanent concrete surface for the longevity and to reduce the maintenance needed through the years.

8. The degree to which community involvement is addressed: i.e., (A) Project idea originated with trail users or a community group that has substantial knowledge, and (B) The private sector (including individual citizens, community groups, and/or local business enterprises) has participated in the development of the proposed idea and has made commitments of labor, money, or materials to support project implementation.

As noted on one of the attached resident letters the parking area has been "much needed for many years". Currently visitors to the Swann Covered Bridge from the east side park all along the roadway which blocks traffic and/or makes it unsafe for pedestrians to walk to the site. The addition of the new parking lot and trail will eliminate this issue.

This Blount County outdoor recreational resource became extremely valuable during the height of the Covid pandemic as families were looking for outdoor activities when everything else was shut down. Based on this high demand, the County has made it a priority to enhance this facility through the expansion of recreational options for the community.

The local community involvement in support of this project has been significant due to the popularity of this destination point in Blount County. As noted in the Executive Director of Alabama Scenic River Trail letter, "this site is a high use area…".

The commitment of the Blount County Commission's additional staffing and financial investment in this proposed trail will ensure that this project is a wise use of federal grant funding. The support of the community as evidenced from the attached testimonial letters and furthermore through the ongoing volunteer manhours and efforts will contribute to the long term success of this trails project as well.

9. Describe in detail how the trail will be managed. Include a discussion on season length, hours of operation, limitations on use, enforcement provisions, and scheduling.

The new Blount County staff member will be responsible for managing the park facilities. The Blount County Sheriff Department with the support of the nearby Cleveland police department will monitor the area throughout the day and after hours as well.

The following rules will be applied to the trail use: Use at own risk; Use of trail prohibited after dark; No motorized vehicles of any type permitted on the trail.

10. Identify and describe the service area of the project. Approximately how many people do you propose to serve with this project? Identify other trail resources in the service area by trail type (motorized, non-motorized, multi-use), distance, location in relation to the proposed trail, and ownership.

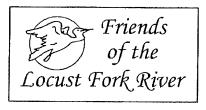
Primarily, the other trail resources in Blount County are nature trails most all of which are not handicapped accessible so the implementation of this project will assist the County is serving the recreational needs of this segment of the population more effectively.

The Town of Cleveland which is just to the east of the project area has the nearest trail resources which has one paved walking trail at the City's primary park which is 1.5 mile from the project site and one ½ mile gravel trail. Both of Cleveland's

Other nearby parks and recreational facilities include Palisades Park in Rosa, Alabama approximately 10 miles away which trails consist of mountainous hiking trails. Other park facilities include Mardis Mill Water Falls near Blountsville, AL and scenic Swann Covered Bridge just west of Cleveland which has some adjacent nature trails near the bridge.

# **ATTACHMENT**

**Community Support Letters** 



Judge Chris Green County Commissioner Blount County, AL 35121 September 9, 2022

Dear Judge Green:

Friends of the Locust Fork River strongly supports the county building a proposed hiking/biking trail by one of the county's premier tourist attractions, the Swann Covered Bridge.

Friends of the Locust Fork River, (FLFR), was formed in 1991 to actively preserve the natural integrity of the river in its free-flowing state, and to that end, the lifestyle of the community that surrounds it. FLFR protects the river by educating youth, getting people on the river through guided monthly outings, watchdogging polluters, and working with other local and statewide partner organizations to advocate smart water policy and better protection of rivers statewide.

FLFR has invested time and resources at Swann Covered Bridge for many many years. We organize hikes and kayak trips regularly, and FLFR volunteers have been cleaning up the area once a month since 2014.

The beaches around the Swann Covered bridge are visited by many tourists throughout the year. Tour buses bring people from all over Alabama and from other states to visit the covered bridge and its surroundings. In 2020 after parks and other recreational sites were closed due to COVID, people started to come in greater numbers to Swann Covered Bridge; it was not unusual to count up to 50 vehicles along the road on a daily basis. There was so much traffic that the neighbors complained about it, and the county had to place guard rails to keep people from parking along that narrow road.

Having a developed trail would help control riverbank erosion, which causes sedimentation, currently the greatest threat to the Locust Fork river. Such a trail would also help reduce the trash scattered about the beaches. By providing trash cans along the trail and at the parking lot, the county will encourage people to pick up their trash and dispose of it in the proper place.

The Locust Fork River has been known for many decades amongst the kayak community for its white water rapids in the spring. A favorite section to kayak in the river starts at King's Bend Scenic Overlook Park and ends at Swann Covered Bridge. Another starts at Swann Covered Bridge and ends at the Swayback bridge on Hwy 160.

We truly appreciate all of the county's efforts to promote eco-tourism and believe that a trail making the area accessible from the Cleveland side is a way to keep our beloved river clean and flowing.

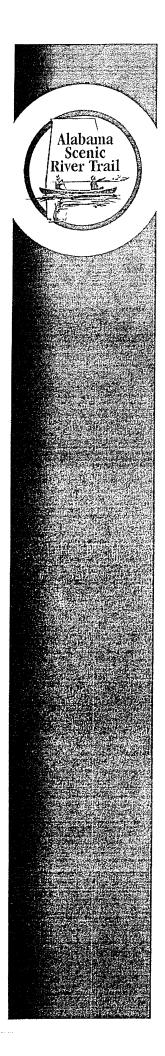
Mari Brindle FLFR President (2021-2024)

MARI BRINDLE

FLFR P.O Box 638, Cleveland, AL 35049

(205) 274-3537

email: info@flfral.com



Hello Judge Green,

My name is Andrew Szymanski, Executive Director of the Alabama Scenic Trail and today I am writing in support of Blount County Commission's plans to build a hiking trail at the Swann Covered Bridge. We understand that the County has applied for a grant through ADECA and hope that the application is approved so the project can move forward.

A pedestrian trail will be important to mitigate any issues that arise when the bridge is closed to vehicle traffic. The proposed half mile loop trail will give visitors and tourists safe access to the area and will prevent people from creating their own access ways across the bridge.

The Alabama Scenic River Trail promotes recreational use of our State's fresh waterways and this site is a high use area for paddlers and other recreational activities. The Locust Fork River attracts paddlers from all over the southeast and we want it to continue being a popular destination for paddling enthusiasts.

The Staff and Board of Directors support the County's efforts to secure a grant to complete this project and look forward to traversing the trail when it is completed.

Sincerely

Andrew Szymanski Executive Director The Alabama Scenic River Trail

#### **Kevin Kessler**

From:

Eleanor Wright <eleanor@flfral.com>

Sent:

Friday, September 9, 2022 4:02 PM

To:

Kevin Kessler

Subject:

Fwd: Swann Bridge Trail - Blount County, Alabama

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Eleanor Wright** < <u>eleanor@flfral.com</u>>

Date: Fri, Sep 9, 2022 at 4:01 PM

Subject: Swann Bridge Trail - Blount County, Alabama

To: cgreen@blountcountyal.gov <cgreen@blountcountyal.gov>

Judge Chris Green Blount County Commission Oneonta, AL 35121

Dear Judge Green:

Perhaps more than any other natural feature of Blount County, the Locust Fork River draws river enthusiasts, white water racers, picnickers, hikers, kas well as kids and adults of all ages to enjoy its beauty and majesty. Above the river, the Swann Covered Bridge is a widely admired landmark that deserves recognition for its role in the county's history. In recent years, particularly during and since the pandemic, the area around Swann Covered Bridge has been heavily used to the detriment of the surroundings and to the dismay of the adjacent landowners.

The proposed hiking/biking trail, along with provision for adequate parking for visitors, will go a long way toward resolving the negatives resulting from increased use of the area. The covered bridge is a jewel of Blount County and enhancing its setting will favor tourism without compromising the safety of those venturing to get close to the bridge and enjoy the beauty of the area.

Friends of the Locust Fork River has been picking up the scattered trash left by visitors to the area for the past eight years in a bid to protect this precious place. FLFR fully supports the Commission's efforts to enhance Swann Covered Bridge by creating a developed hiking/biking trail and adequate parking for visitors to the area.

Eleanor Wright
Secretary
Friends of the Locust Fork River

September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2022

Blount County Courthouse Office of Probate Attn: Judge Chris Green 220 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave E #101 Oneonta AL 35121

#### Dear Judge Green

I am writing in support of Blount County Commission's plans to build a hiking/biking trail at the Swann Covered Bridge. If the county could secure the grant applied for through the Department of Community Affairs, I know the idea will come to fruition much sooner than later.

There is great need for a trail to aid public access since the covered bridge will not be reopened for vehicle traffic due to reasons without remedy and the road closed. If a half mile trail and necessary parking area on county road right of way is not built beginning at the locked gate, the county should expect visitors to make their own unorganized way and quite possibly environmentally destructive way to access the bridge. I expect the county government and local law enforcement will receive complaints from adjacent property owners due to probable trespassing and haphazard parking on the road. None of us want to hear of that happening!

Let me know if I can be of any assistance to you and the county commission in its pursuit to give the public access to the historically registered Swann Covered Bridge. The county promotes its Covered Bridge Trail and even hosts an annual Covered Bridge Festival. It will be difficult to justify the promotion if there isn't organized access to the most popular covered bridge on the trail.

Sincerely.

Sam Howell

231 County Highway 13

Cleveland AL 35049



## Swann Bridge Trail - Blount County, Alabama

1 message

Eleanor Wright <eleanor@fifral.com> To: "cgreen@blountcountyal.gov" <cgreen@blountcountyal.gov> Fri. Sep 9, 2022 at 4:01 PM

Judge Chris Green **Blount County Commission** Oneonta, AL 35121

Dear Judge Green:

Perhaps more than any other natural feature of Blount County, the Locust Fork River draws river enthusiasts, white water racers, picnickers, hikers, kas well as kids and adults of all ages to enjoy its beauty and majesty. Above the river, the Swann Covered Bridge is a widely admired landmark that deserves recognition for its role in the county's history. In recent years, particularly during and since the pandemic, the area around Swann Covered Bridge has been heavily used to the detriment of the surroundings and to the dismay of the adjacent landowners.

The proposed hiking/biking trail, along with provision for adequate parking for visitors, will go a long way toward resolving the negatives resulting from increased use of the area. The covered bridge is a jewel of Blount County and enhancing its setting will favor tourism without compromising the safety of those venturing to get close to the bridge and enjoy the beauty of the area.

Friends of the Locust Fork River has been picking up the scattered trash left by visitors to the area for the past eight years in a bid to protect this precious place. FLFR fully supports the Commission's efforts to enhance Swann Covered Bridge by creating a developed hiking/biking trail and adequate parking for visitors to the area.

Eleanor Wright Secretary Friends of the Locust Fork River



## Swan Bridge Hiking Trail

1 message

Dinah Wilson <dwilson@flfral.com> To: cgreen@blountcountyal.gov

Fri, Sep 9, 2022 at 3:17 PM

Dear Probate Judge Green:

I write in support of Blount County's desire to build a hiking/biking trail in Cleveland near the Swan Bridge site. As an outdoor enthusiast who enjoys hiking and biking; as well as kayaking, I am excited about the potential for enjoying all of these activities in one location, in my own backyard.

During the days of COVID, when we were all looking for recreation opportunities in open, outdoor spaces, such a space would have been most enjoyable. And, as we will likely be living with this dreaded disease on a yearly basis, outdoor recreation is more important now than ever before.

Thank you for all your efforts in giving residents the chance for greater physical activity in beautiful, awesome Blount County.

Dinah Wilson Friends of the Locust Fork River **Advisory Council** 



## Swan Covered Bridge Trail

1 message

Sharon Cook <otebear@gmail.com> To: cgreen@blountcountyal.gov

Fri, Sep 9, 2022 at 4:02 PM

Judge Chris Green, Chairman **Blount County Commission** 220 2nd Avenue East Oneonta, AL. 35121

Dear Chairman Green,

Blount County is known for it's covered bridges. So, to maintain this bridge as a park and as part of a walking/hiking/biking trail would be in keeping with adding value to both attract tourists and to be available for the pleasure of local residents. The close proximity of this attraction to the Grand Staircase over the Locust Fork River on Hwy 79 makes this an even more attractive idea. Improving this property will make it more available for a range of recreational activities such as floating on the river, fishing, biking, hiking, etc. For the sake of futrure generations of Blount County residents, we don't want to lose this important asset.

We support the efforts of the Blount County Commission to apply for a trails grant and urge the commission to keep the Swan Bridge as a safe place for Blount County citizens and tourists to enjoy the history of the county and activities along the Locust Fork River. And we need to maintain access to the bridge on the Cleveland side of the river so there is an easy tie in to the Grand Staircase.

Steve and Sharon Cook Friends of the Locust Fork River 201 Deavers Town Rd. Cleveland, Al 335049



## **Trail to Swann Bridge**

1 message

Ellen Luce <ellenluce69@gmail.com> To: cgreen@blountcountyal.gov

Fri, Sep 9, 2022 at 3:06 PM

Hello,

I fully support and would love to see a trail access built to Swann Bridge. I am a proud lifelong resident of beautiful Blount County and enjoy hiking and being in nature. I spend alot of time at Swann Bridge where I see many out of town and state visitors.

This trail would be a huge asset to the county and would be enjoyed by many.

Thank you!

Ellen Luce



## Swann Covered Bridge Trail

1 message

**Mike Saunders** <mdsaunders1@gmail.com> To: cgreen@blountcountyal.gov Fri, Sep 9, 2022 at 4:31 PM

Judge Green,

As a citizen of Blount County, I wanted to write to express my interest and support for improved access at the Swann Covered Bridge. The support of our county government in building a trail and parking lot would assist in supporting local recreation and businesses who rely on tourism. Access is everything and by securing a grant, possibly save the tax payers in our constituency. Please consider the local support rallying behind our historic covered bridges and our future enjoyment of this legacy.

Michael Saunders 500 Red Maple Rd Blountsville, AL 35031 September 6, 2022

The Honorable Judge Chris Ifreen Chairman, Blount County Comission 220 Second Avenue East Suite 106 Onconta, AL 35/21

Dear Judge Green,

First I would like to thank you for your time and effort declicated to the development of the recreational area caround Swann Pointed. This has been a local point of interest for years, not only to Blount Granty residence but many lovers of the beautiful out doors. Blount Country is a beautiful area and more and more people from other areas are becoming aware of this.

Swann Bridge has been a much needed addition for many years. This will alleviate the conjection coursed by people parking everywhere and blocking the road. But with the parking facility comes the need for easy access to the river. A hiking access beyong trail from the parking access beyong trail from the parking area to the bridge and the river is essential. Not only will it enhance the outdoor experience but will make access to the river a page and enjoyable experience. This trail to the budge and

surrounding area will enhance not only the overall experience but will be a safe and enjoyable addition to the overall scheme of things. Developing Swann Bridge into a more enjoyable and safer slace for all visitors is defenitely a great all who enjoy its blanty.

Sincerely, Jeresa S Jones **From:** Amy V Seiber <aseiber@blountboe.net> **Sent:** Friday, September 9, 2022 3:08 PM

To: Kevin Kessler; cgreen@blountcountyal.gov

Subject: Letter of support for Swann Bridge Project

#### To whom it may concern:

When I have visitors from out of town, one of the first places I take them to sight-see is Swann Bridge. It is such an unusual and impressive structure that I want to share it with people. Once there, the river, of course, is equally impressive and beautiful. We are so lucky to have a landmark like this in Blount County.

I am a retired teacher now, but when I taught art and photography at Hayden High School, I would sometimes take my students to Swann Bridge as a quick local field trip. We could photograph the bridge and the water. We used photos of the bridge as references for perspective drawings in art class, and student photographs of the bridge and water were stunning.

Swann Bridge and the Locust Fork river are Blount County landmarks that we should educate our youth to respect and appreciate, and so building trails and creating parks models the respect and appreciation of our community that we would like the youth of Blount County to feel.

In addition, I love to ride bikes—both road and mountain bikes. I do not like to ride where there are cars, so I often travel to other counties to ride, which feels ridiculous. I would very much appreciate a place to ride that is close to my house. I hope this project is just the beginning of several such trails. You have my full support.

Sincerely, Amy Seiber 205-913-0906 Hayden Resident

Sent from my iPad

#### **Kevin Kessler**

From: Debra Gordon-Hellman <debragh1@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Friday, September 9, 2022 4:55 PM cgreen@blountcountyal.gov

**Cc:** Kevin Kessler

**Subject:** Letter in support of Swann Covered Bridge Trail

September 9, 2022

Judge Chris Green, Chairman Blount County Commission 220 2 nd Avenue East Oneonta, Alabama 35121

# Dear Judge Green:

I am very excited about this opportunity to enhance the Swann Covered Bridge area and experience for Blount Countians as well as the significant number of tourists who visit our covered bridges. Constructed in the 1930's, it is an important destination for history buffs as the Swann Covered Bridge was listed on the National Register of Historic Places on August 20, 1981 and is the longest historic covered bridge in Alabama.

Now that vehicle traffic has been stopped for safety concerns, it is all the more important to make access to this very popular destination easy for families and other pedestrians visiting the bridge or recreating on the river from the Cleveland side of the bridge.

Also, tourism has become an important economic booster in our county, and this trail will add to that. I support, appreciate, and am encouraged by all that the Blount County Commission has done to increase the economic benefits of tourism for the citizens and businesses of our county.

For all these reasons, I urge you to do all you can to provide us with a walking and bicycling trail to access the bridge and river from the Cleveland side of the river.

Thank you for considering my views.

Sincerely,

Debra J. Gordon-Hellman

Debra J. Gordon-Hellman 680 Red Maple Rd. Blountsville, AL 35031



## Letter in support of Swann Covered Bridge Trail

1 message

Debra Gordon-Hellman <debragh1@gmail.com>
To: cgreen@blountcountyal.gov
Cc: kkessler@cci-hsv.com

Fri, Sep 9, 2022 at 4:54 PM

September 9, 2022

Judge Chris Green, Chairman Blount County Commission 220 2 nd Avenue East Oneonta, Alabama 35121

Dear Judge Green:

I am very excited about this opportunity to enhance the Swann Covered Bridge area and experience for Blount Countians as well as the significant number of tourists who visit our covered bridges. Constructed in the 1930's, it is an important destination for history buffs as the Swann Covered Bridge was listed on the National Register of Historic Places on August 20, 1981 and is the longest historic covered bridge in Alabama.

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Also, tourism has become an important economic booster in our county, and this trail will add to that. I support, appreciate, and am encouraged by all that the Blount County Commission has done to increase the economic benefits of tourism for the citizens and businesses of our county.

For all these reasons, I urge you to do all you can to provide us with a walking and bicycling trail to access the bridge and river from the Cleveland side of the river.

Thank you for considering my views.

Sincerely,

Debra J. Gordon-Hellman

Debra J. Gordon-Hellman 680 Red Maple Rd. Blountsville, AL 35031



## Support for Multiuse Swann Bridge Trail Proposal

1 message

Donna Matthews <donna@flfral.com> To: cgreen@blountcountyal.gov, kkessler@cci-hvs.com Fri, Sep 9, 2022 at 4:58 PM

September 9, 2022

Judge Chris Green, Chairman **Blount County Commission** 220 2nd Ave East Oneonta, AL 35121

Dear Judge Green,

I wish to voice my whole-hearted support in favor of improving access to Swann Bridge and the Locust Fork River from the Cleveland side of the river. The establishment of a walking / biking trail will be very advantageous for locals and tourists alike.

This project is in line with previous forward leaning efforts of Blount County leadership to accentuate accessibility of the natural riches abounding in the county. Health benefits of safe walking trails bear mentioning as, we all want beautiful places to recreate and experience Nature. As others have commented, Swann Bridge is historic. For city dwellers from the Huntsville and Birmingham population centers, a Swann Bridge destination is a no brainer for a family outing. Thank you for funding this project and helping elevate this special treasure located in Blount County.

Sincerely, Donna Matthews 249 Taylor Bottoms Blountsville, AL 35031

# TOWN OF CLEVELAND

P. O. BOX 186

CLEVELAND, AL 35049

205-274-9640 FAX

205-859-1133

#### COUNCIL MEMBERS

JAMES BYNUM CHAD PASS TOMMY SWINDLE JAMES SULLIVAN DONNA MCDOUGAL

September 7, 2022

JERRY JONES

MAYOR

SHEENA ADAMS

TOWN CLERK

PAT THOMAS

POLICE CHIEF

STEVE PASS SUPERINTENDENT

To: Chris Green Chairman

Blount Co. Commission,

I am writing you on behalf of the Cleveland Town Council and the citizens of our town and surrounding community. I am writing to support the proposed parking and walking/bicycle path on Swan Bridge Rd. Swan Bridge is a State treasurer and the most visited covered bridge in the county. To have this recreational addition to the east side of the bridge would have a direct benefit both economically and health wise for those wanting to visit and enjoy this great resource. We wish you and the Commission success in this most worthy project.

Sincerely,

Jerry Jones Mayor Town Of Cleveland. The Recreational Trails Program provides **80/20 matching** fund grants. That is, the RTP will fund up to 80 percent of the project cost and the grant recipient must provide at least 20 percent in the form of cash, in-kind, and/or donated contributions.

#### **Eligible Costs**

- 1. Design, engineering, and construction oversight services (may not exceed 10% of the total construction cost)
- 2. Direct labor
- 3. Special tradesmen secured under a service purchase contract
- 4. Rental of equipment
- 5. Construction contracts
- 6. Project materials
- 7. Signage<sup>1</sup>
- 8. Land acquisition
- 9. Professional project administration (grant consultant) (may not exceed 5% of total project cost)

#### PROJECT DEVELOPMENT BUDGET

BUDGET ITEM	TOTAL	RTP SHARE	MATCHING SHARE
Acquisition			
Construction Contracts	\$383,000.00	\$306,400.00	\$76,600.00
Equipment Rental			
Labor			
Signage			
Supplies/Materials			
Administration	\$22,200.00	\$17,760.00	\$4,440.00
Engineering	\$44,800.00	\$35,840.00	\$8,960.00
TOTAL PROJECT COST	\$450,000.00	\$360,000.00	\$90,000.00

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Signs which function as traffic control devices must conform with the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD). Part IX of the MUTCD, Traffic Controls for Bicycle Facilities, covers the bicycle related signs, pavement markings, and signals which may be used on highways or bikeways. Part IX is applicable to shared use paths (non-motorized multiple-use trails which may provide a transportation purpose). The publication Standard Highway Signs has the detailed drawings for the highway signs prescribed in the MUTCD. These documents are available for purchase from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402.

Signs which do not function as traffic control devices are not subject to the MUTCD. However, informational signs and kiosks must take into consideration the needs of various users, such as: people who are blind or who have low vision, people who use wheelchairs, and children.

	OPINION OF PROBABLE CONSTRUCTION COST					
	9/7/2022  BLOUNT COUNTY SWANN COVERED BRIDGE MULTI-USE TRAIL					
Item No.	Item Description	Unit	Quantity	Unit Price	Amount	
1	Clearing And Grubbing (Maximum Allowable Bid \$8,000)	LS	1	\$8,000.00	\$8,000	
2	Unclassified Excavation	CY	200	\$30.00	\$6,000	
3	Borrow Excavation	CY	3,250	\$25.00	\$81,250	
4	Superpave Wearing Surf (1.5")	TON	25	\$150.00	\$3,750	
5	Superpave Binder (4")	TON	50	\$180.00	\$9,000	
6	Crushed Aggregate Base, Type B, 6" Compacted Thickness	SY	225	\$30.00	\$6,750	
7	Pedestrian Bridge	LS	1	\$20,000.00	\$20,000	
8	Concrete Multi-Use Path (4" Thick)	SY	1,570	\$75.00	\$117,750	
9	Gate	EACH	1	\$2,600.00	\$2,600	
10	Topsoil	CY	400	\$55.00	\$22,000	
11	Seeding	AC	1	\$1,000.00	\$1,000	
12	Erosion Control	LS	1	\$10,000.00	\$10,000	
13	Signs	LS	1	\$2,500.00	\$2,500	
14	Traffic Control	LS	1	\$5,000.00	\$5,000	
15	Bollard	EACH	. 3	\$1,000.00	\$3,000	
			Constru	ction Subtotal	\$298,600	
	Contingency			15.00%	\$45,000	
	Geometric Controls			1.30%	\$5,000	
	Mobilization			9.70%	\$34,000	
Total Construction Cost  Preliminary Engineering (10%)  Grant Administration (5%)  Total Estimated Project Cost (2022)				\$383,000		
				\$44,800		
				\$22,200		
				\$450,000		

Recreational Trails Program (RTP) Grant Request (80%):

Local Match (20%):

\$360,000

\$90,000

NOTE: ENGINEER'S OPINION OF PROBABLE CONSTRUCTION COST PROVIDED IS MADE ON THE BASIS OF ENGINEER'S EXPERIENCES AND QUALIFICATION AND REPRESENTS ENGINEER'S BEST JUDGMENT WITHIN THE INDUSTRY. ENGINEER DOES NOT GUARANTEE THAT PROPOSALS, BIDS, OR ACTUAL COST WILL NOT VARY FROM ENGINEER'S OPINION OF PROBABLE COST.

#### **BLOUNT COUNTY COMMISSION**

#### 2023 RTP Enhancement Project

#### **Budget Narrative**

The proposed improvements will involve the construction of an ADA-compliant, concrete multiuse trail, to provide access to the historic Swann Covered Bridge. The County recently purchased 1 acre on Swann Bridge Road for \$10,000 for the purpose of constructing a trailhead on a portion of the site. Attached is the sales contract from August of this year.

The proposed trail will begin at the new parking lot. The gravel parking lot will be constructed by Blount County outside the scope of this grant. ADA compliant parking spaces will be added to the parking lot within this project scope.

The project includes a cul-de-sac which will be constructed within the existing road right of way in front of the parking lot.

From the trailhead area, the project will include the construction of approximately 1700 LF of an 8' wide concrete path on the north side of Swann Bridge Road. To the west of the cul-de-sac, the current roadway will be converted to a 2-way private drive to allow access to the 3 local residents that have homes to the west of the trailhead. Otherwise, the road will be closed to through traffic. To allow for the trail to be constructed within the existing right-of-way, the road will be narrowed to 18', and a 5' grass buffer will be constructed between the converted roadway and the multi-use trail.

On the west end of the project scope a gate will be installed to prevent vehicle traffic from continuing. At this point, the proposed pedestrian path will be built across the current wooden bridge area in the attached pictures and the trail will merge onto the existing roadway where it continues to the Swann Covered Bridge. No improvements are proposed along this final stretch of Swann Bridge Road. The roadway will be permanently closed and the existing roadway will become the recreational trail to the Covered Bridge. The total length from the trailhead to the covered bridge is approximately ½ mile.

In the area of the covered bridge, along with the river resources, are several nature trails which will provide further recreational opportunities for participants beyond the proposed trail. Bikers will have the opportunity to continue westwardly along Swann Bridge Road for approximately another 1.5 miles through a rural residential area before reaching any major roadways.

**Engineering Design and Inspection** The ENGINEER will perform the necessary design surveys, accomplish the detailed design of the project, prepare construction drawings, specifications and contract documents for the project. The ENGINEER will provide general engineering review of the work of the contractors as construction progresses to ascertain that the contractor is conforming with the design concept.

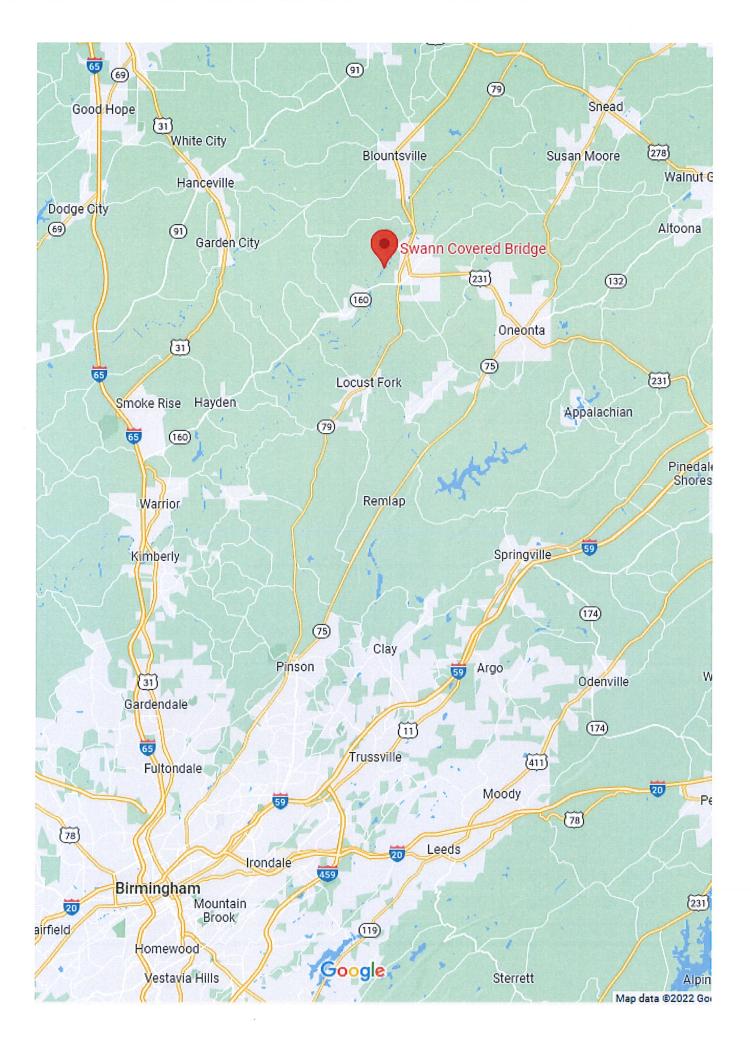
**Project Administration** The Grant Consultant will work closely with the local government to ensure the efficient implementation of the project in a timely manner and in compliance with all applicable Federal & State regulations including but not limited to all bidding & contracts management, environmental review requirements, financial management, reporting requirements, and record keeping.

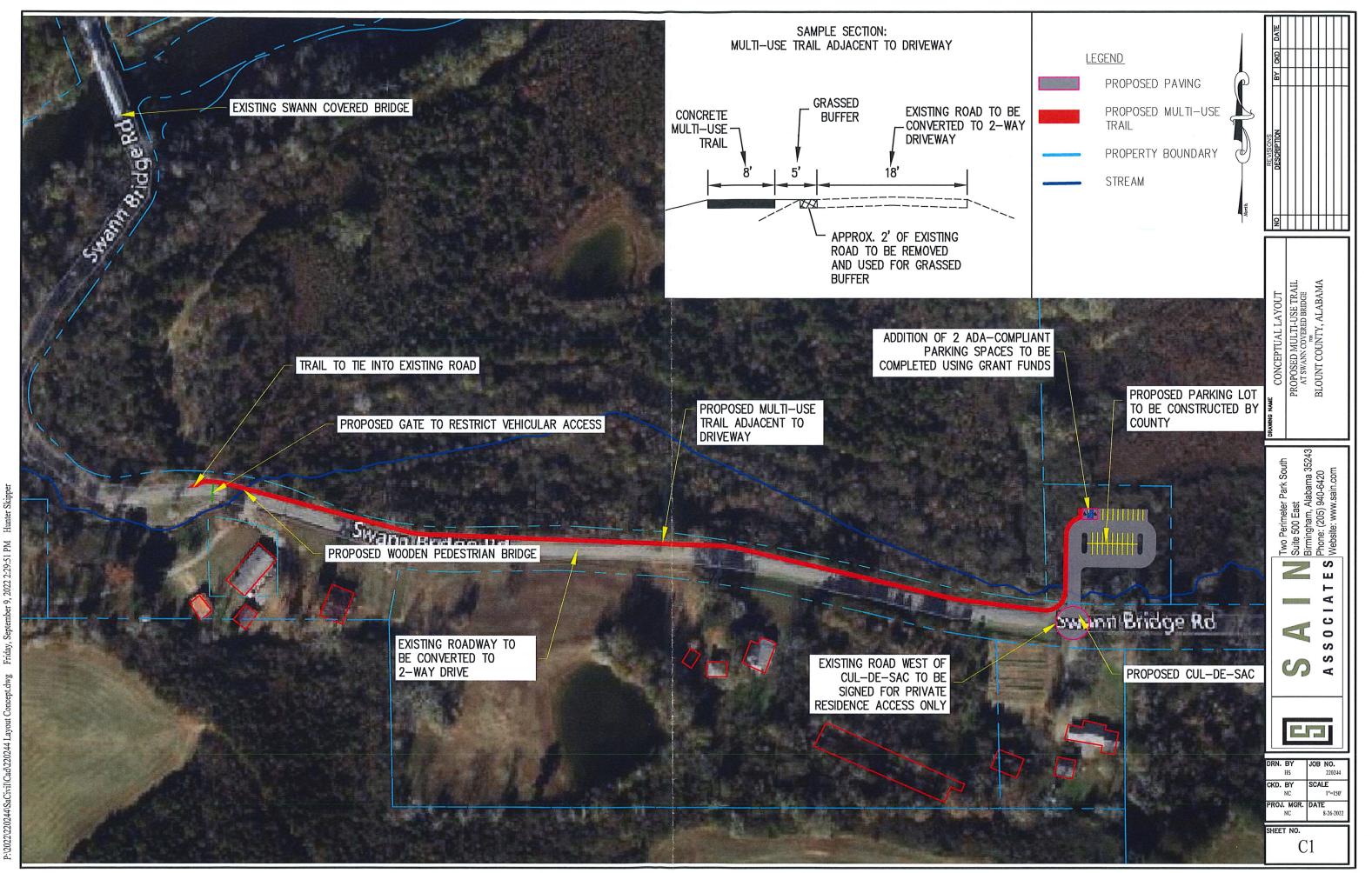
With an anticipated period of performance start date of January 2023, the timeline would be as follows:

- January 2023 Enter into contracts for Project Administration Services as well as Engineering & Design Services (Procurement for Administration & Engineering services was completed in August 2022, prior to application development)
- February 2023 The Engineer would begin design.
- April 2023 The City, Project Engineer, and Grant Administrator will review the design and make modifications as necessary.
- May 2023 Construction of the proposed improvements will be advertised and formally bid
- July 2023 Construction is expected to begin
- December 2023 Construction is complete
- March 2024 The improvements are complete and close out documents are submitted to ADECA

# **ATTACHMENT**

**Maps & Site Plans GPS Coordinates 33.994928, -86.595831** 







### **BLOUNT COUNTY COMMISSION**

Unique Entity ID CAGE / NCAGE Purpose of Registration

U6Q1E7NJYQE4 4AWL6 Federal Assistance Awards Only

Registration Status Expiration Date
Active Registration Aug 18, 2023
Physical Address Mailing Address

 220 2ND AVE E STE 106
 220 2ND Avenue EAST, Room 106

 Oneonta, Alabama 35121
 Oneonta, Alabama 35121-1702

United States United States

#### Business Information

Doing Business as Division Name Division Number

 (blank)
 (blank)
 (blank)

 Congressional District
 State / Country of Incorporation
 URL

Alabama 06 (blank) / (blank) (blank)

Registration Dates

Activation Date Submission Date Initial Registration Date

Aug 26, 2022 Aug 18, 2022 Feb 10, 2006

Entity Dates

Entity Start Date Fiscal Year End Close Date

May 9, 1817 Sep 30

Immediate Owner

CAGE Legal Business Name

(blank) (blank)

**Highest Level Owner** 

CAGE Legal Business Name

(blank) (blank)

#### **Executive Compensation**

Registrants in the System for Award Management (SAM) respond to the Executive Compensation questions in accordance with Section 6202 of P.L. 110-252, amending the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act (P.L. 109-282). This information is not displayed in SAM. It is sent to USAspending.gov for display in association with an eligible award. Maintaining an active registration in SAM demonstrates the registrant responded to the questions.

#### **Proceedings Questions**

Registrants in the System for Award Management (SAM) respond to proceedings questions in accordance with FAR 52.209-7, FAR 52.209-9, or 2.C.F.R. 200 Appendix XII. Their responses are not displayed in SAM. They are sent to FAPIIS.gov for display as applicable. Maintaining an active registration in SAM demonstrates the registrant responded to the proceedings questions.

#### Exclusion Guarriery

Active Exclusions Records?

No

#### SAM Busich Authorization

I authorize my entity's non-sensitive information to be displayed in SAM public search results:

Yes

**Business Types** 

Entity Structure Entity Type

Type Organization Factors

(blank)

U.S. Government Entity US Local Government

Profit Structure (blank)

### **Environmental Reviewers**

The following individual(s) provided input in the completion of the environmental screening form. List all reviewers including name, title, agency, and field of expertise. Keep all environmental review records and data on this proposal in state compliance file for any future program review and/or audit. There must be at least one person listed here.

1. Kevin Kessler, Community Consultants, Inc.	<u> </u>
2.	·
3.	
The following individuals conducted a site inspection List name of inspector(s), title, agency, and date(sited here.	tion to verify field conditions. s) of inspection. There must be at least one person
1. Kevin Kessler, Community Consultants, Inc.	
2	
3	
Signature of Chief Elected Official here	e:
X Mis Leen	_ - 9-8-2022
Signature	Date

### Environmental Checklist for Recreational Trails Program Project

County: Blount	
Project Location: From 1798 t	o 2084 Swann Bridge Rd, Cleveland, AL 35049
Project Sponsor/Applicant:	Blount County

**Project Description:** Construction of a new 8' concrete recreational trail along a residential road right-of-way where it will connect to a new pedestrian wooden bridge, and then connected to a closed section of roadway that will be a continuation of the recreational trail.

Concurrence from Alabama Historical Commission attached?	Yes _	No X
Concurrence from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services attached?	Yes _	No X
Concurrence from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers attached?	Yes _	No X
Tribal Consultation attached?	Yes _	No X
Was the property acquired before January 1992?	Yes _	No X
If (May avalage appropriate ap		

If "No" explain property acquisition process (Use additional sheets if necessary):

All of the proposed construction will be within previously disturbed land and/or within the road right of way.

The Programmatic Agreement between ADECA & AHC will apply.

There are no wetlands in the project area therefore the COE will not be contacted.

There is no new ground disturbance therefore the Tribes will not be contacted.

The FWS concurrence request is attached.

Note: If you have not received the concurrence letters by the application deadline, submit copies of the request letters. Concurrences over three (3) years old cannot be used and new concurrences must be obtained.

Required Letters of Concurrence and Release of Conditions

#### US Army Corps of Engineers

Mobile District Corps of Engineers	Nashville District Corps of Engineers
Chief, Regulatory Branch	Western Regulatory Field Office
Post Office Box 2288	2424 Danville Road, SW, STE N
Mobile, Alabama 36628-0001	Decatur, Alabama 35603
Phone: 251-690-2658	Phone Number: 256-350-5620

<u>Alabama Historical Commission</u>: Lee Anne Wofford, Deputy SHPO, Alabama Historical Commission, 468 South Perry Street, Montgomery, Alabama 36130-0900, Phone: 334-242-3184.

<u>US Fish and Wildlife Service:</u> Mr. Bill Pearson, Field Supervisor, US Fish and Wildlife Service, 1208-B Main Street, Daphne, Alabama 36526-4419, 251-441-5181.

### **ATTACHMENT**

**Environmental Concurrence Correspondence** 

#### **Kevin Kessler**

From: Kevin Kessler

**Sent:** Friday, September 9, 2022 3:55 PM

**To:** alabama@fws.gov

**Subject:** Concurrence Request for Blount County Project Code 2022-0084093 Recreational Trail

Project

Attachments: Species List\_ Alabama Ecological Services Field Office.pdf; Proposed Improvements

Map.pdf; Wetland Map.pdf; Topo Map.TIF; Blount Co RTP Trail Pictures.docx

Please see the attached project information from Blount County your review.

The Blount County Commission is seeking grant assistance to build a new 8' wide concrete trail approximately 1,500 LF along Swann Bridge Road in the road right of way. The project also includes the construction of a 10' wide wooden pedestrian bridge that crosses a small ditch. The project does not cross any waterways. Construction may include some tree clearing. Prior to the trail construction, the County will build a parking lot therefore all construction within the scope of this grant will be on previously disturbed and/or in the road right of way.

#### Thank you,

Kevin Kessler Community Consultants, Inc. 1807 Slaughter Road, Suite B Madison, AL 35758

Ofc: 256-890-4240 Cell: 256-656-2266

# **ATTACHMENT**

**Trailhead Area Property Purchase Document** 

STATE OF ALABAMA )

#### CONTRACT FOR SALE OF PROPERTY

COUNTY OF BLOUNT)

THIS AGREEMENT is made at Oneonta, Alabama, on the day of August, 2022, by Robert Curiel and wife, Lilia Garcia, hereinafter referred to as Seller, and Blount County, Alabama, a Political Subdivision of the State of Alabama as governed by the Blount County Commission, hereinafter referred to as Purchaser.

In consideration of the covenants made each to the other, as herein set forth, the parties agree as follows:

### SECTION ONE PREMISES

Seller shall sell and convey and Purchaser shall purchase, on the terms and conditions hereinafter set forth, that certain real property lying and being in Blount County, Alabama, more particularly described as follows:

A one (1) acre parcel of land located on Swann Bridge Road in Cleveland, Alabama located on the southwest corner of Blaint County Revenue Commission parcel number 14-06-13-0-000-003.000. Description to be attached as Exhibit A upon completion of survey by a licensed surveyor.

### SECTION TWO DELIVERY OF DEED

On payment of the purchase price as herein provided, or assurance of its payment satisfactory to Seller, Seller shall execute and deliver a warranty deed describing the property and conveying the same to Purchaser.

### SECTION THREE TITLE

Title to the property shall be good and marketable, free and clear of all encumbrances, all liens, restrictions, easements, defects and burdens, except unpaid taxes not delinquent.

If any title restrictions, defects or burdens appear on the preliminary title report, to which Purchaser objects, such objection shall be stated in writing to Seller who shall be allowed a reasonable time in which to correct the same.

# SECTION FOUR PURCHASE PRICE; TERMS OF PAYMENT

The full purchase price for the property is Ten Thousand, and no/100 (\$10,000.00) Dollars per surveyed acre, payable as follows: full consideration to be paid at closing less any earnest money paid by Purchaser.

# SECTION FIVE CLOSING; TIMING IS ESSENTIAL

Unless extended by written agreement of the parties, this contract shall be completed and the transaction closed within sixty (60) days of the execution of this contract.

# SECTION SIX BREACH

Should Seller be unable to close as referenced is Section Five, the earnest money paid as contemplated in Section Four shall be refunded immediately and transaction cancelled and voided.

Should Purchaser be unable to close as referenced is Section Five, the earnest money paid as contemplated in Section Four shall be retained by Seller as liquidated damages and transaction cancelled and voided.

### SECTION SEVEN TRANSFER OF PROPERTY

Possession of the property shall be delivered at the time of closing. The closing agent shall be Brunson, Barnett & Sherrer, P.C., 231 Second Avenue, East, Oneonta, Alabama 35121. Purchaser has inspected the property, including the improvements thereon, and accept the same in their present condition.

### SECTION EIGHT CLOSING COSTS

The expenses of the closing and conveyance of title to the property shall be paid by the parties as follows:

- a. All costs including but not limited to attorney fees, closing fee, document preparation, and any other cost of closing, and the like shall be paid by Purchaser.
- b. The costs associated with the survey performed by a licensed surveyor, the title search, title review, title commitment, title insurance and the recording of the Warranty Deed shall be shall be paid by Purchaser.

#### SECTION NINE BINDING EFFECT

This contract shall inure to the benefit of and bind the heirs, personal representatives, and assigns of the respective parties.

Executed in duplicate on the day and year first above written.

	SELLER
Witness	Robert Curiel
	The fuer
Witness	Lilia Garcia
	PURCHASER
Enn 1 Sey	Blount County Alabama
	Accepted By:

Chris Green, Chairman Blount County Commission Indicate potential for **adverse** impacts.

A. ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES	No Impacts or Not Applicable	Negligible Impacts	Minor Impacts	Impacts Exceed Minor EA/EIS required	More Data Needed to Determine EA/EIS required
Geological resources: soils, bedrock, slopes, streambeds,	X				- , , ,
landforms, etc.					
2. Air quality	X				
3. Sound (noise impacts)	X				****
4. Water quality/quantity	Х		-		
5. Stream flow characteristics	X				
6. Marine/estuarine	X		-		
7. Floodplains/wetlands	X				
8. Land use/ownership patterns;	X	1			
property values; community livability	^				
9. Circulation, transportation	Х				
10. Plant/animal/fish species of special concern and habitat; state/ federal listed or proposed for listing	Х				
11. Unique ecosystems, such as biosphere reserves, World Heritage sites, old growth forests, etc.	Х				
12. Unique or important wildlife/	X				
wildlife habitat					
13. Unique or important fish/habitat	Х				
14. Introduce or promote invasive	Х				
species (plant or animal)					
15. Recreation resources, including	Х				
parks, open space, conservation					
areas, rec. trails, facilities, services,					
opportunities, public access, etc.)					
16. Accessibility for populations with disabilities	X				
17. Overall aesthetics, special	Х				
characteristics/features					
18. Historical/cultural resources,	Х				
including landscapes, ethnographic,		, i			
archeological, structures, etc.  19. Socioeconomics, including	X				
employment, occupation, income	^				
changes, tax base, infrastructure					
20. Minority and low-income	х				
populations					
21. Energy resources (geothermal,	Х				
fossil fuels, etc.)					
22. Other agency or tribal land use	Х		-		
plans or policies					
23. Land/structures with history of	Х				
contamination/hazardous materials					
even if remediated					
24. Other important environmental	X				
resources that should be addressed					

B. MANDATORY CRITERIA If your proposal is approved, would it	Yes	No	To be determined
Have significant impacts on public health or safety?	163	X	
Have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic		X	
characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation, or refuge lands,			
wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or			
principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (E.O. 11990);			
floodplains (E.O 11988); and other ecologically significant or critical areas?			
3. Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts		X	
concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA section 102(2)(E)]?		^	
4. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or	<b> </b>	X	
nvolve unique or unknown environmental risks?		^	
5. Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about		X	
future actions with potentially significant environmental effects?		^	
6. Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant, but		X	
cumulatively significant, environmental effects?			
7. Have significant impacts on properties listed or eligible for listing on the		X	
National Register of Historic Places, as determined by either the bureau or office?			
(Attach SHPO/THPO Comments)			
8. Have significant impacts on species listed or proposed to be listed on the List		X	
of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have significant impacts on designated			
Critical Habitat for these species?			
9. Violate a federal law, or a state, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for		X	
the protection of the environment?			
10. Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority		Х	
populations (Executive Order 12898)?			
11. Limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on federal lands by		Х	
Indian religious practitioners or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity			
of such sacred sites (Executive Order 13007)?			
12. Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious		Х	
weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area, or actions that			
may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species			
(Federal Noxious Weed Control Act and Executive Order 13112)?			
C. CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION CRITERIA			
13. Is the area previously disturbed and unlikely to result in any excavation		X	
beyond surface disturbance possibly impacting archaeology?			
14. Is the area regularly mowed and therefore unlikely to contain		Х	
endangered species?			
15. Is there any surface water within direct proximity to the project which		X	
would require protection from construction impacts?			

.

# **ATTACHMENT**

**Site Pictures** 



Pictured above is where the new trail will be built along the left of this road within the right-of-way.

Below is where the new ADA compliant pedestrian bridge will be built across this creek. A new gate will be built to block vehicle traffic and the existing roadway will become the trail for the rest of the way leading to the covered bridge which is approximately 1,000 feet beyond this point.





Above is a section of the existing road that will used as the recreational trail leading to the covered bridge which is pictured below.





This historic covered bridge crosses the beautiful Locust Fork River which is a popular recreational resource for Blount County which is used for kayaking, swimming, fishing, and more.





Visitors to Covered Bridge area also have access to hiking and nature trails to enjoy.





From the Swann Covered Bridge, cyclists have the opportunity to continue westwardly along the lightly traveled Swann Bridge Road for approximately 1.5 miles before intersecting with the next county road.